



# COVID-19 Response for Vulnerable

# Communities in

# SOUTH SUDAN



**Context:** South Sudan is the world’s most dangerous country in which to live during a pandemic. The country’s fragile health care system coupled with insecurity, population movements, densely populated areas, and low access to clean water, poor sanitation and hygiene facilities mean that there is a high risk for rapid spread of COVID-19 while the health system will be unable to manage it.

**Objective:** Reduce morbidity and mortality, as well as protection threats and incidences for the most vulnerable as a result of COVID-19, through integrated health and water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) interventions.

**Activities:** Provide essential life-saving health and water, sanitation, and hygiene services

**Duration:** 18 August 2020 – 31 March 2021

**Location:** South Sudan Republic; Juba

**Supporting:** 101,000 people from vulnerable communities in Juba, South Sudan

**Budget:** USD 1,894,364, part of which will be covered by institutional donors and foundations

## Project Context

South Sudan, the world's youngest country, has suffered crisis after crisis: sustained insecurity, mass displacement, recurring natural disasters, a desert locust infestation, a severe economic crisis, and now the COVID-19 outbreak. 7.5 million people, more than two thirds of the population, need humanitarian assistance and protection. Juba, the country's capital, is the current epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in South Sudan, being the main entry point to South Sudan and with the high population density. The capacity of the health system in Juba to manage the projected large caseload is severely limited and will heavily rely on support from the humanitarian sector.



- 2,592 COVID-19 cases registered on September 15 – the actual number may well be higher, given severe limitations in sample taking and testing.
- If limited resources are shifted away from critical health and nutrition services, it can lead to increased illness and death from other diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Decreased access to already limited reproductive health services could result in complications and deaths for mothers and their new-borns<sup>1</sup>.
- COVID-19 and movement restrictions enhance the burden on households and increase risk for gender-based violence. Support for survivors of gender-based violence, including psychological first aid and clinical management of rape, is crucial during any crisis.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services are limited in South Sudan, but their need is expected to increase as the COVID-19 pandemic causes fear, stigma, and isolation, and could be a potential trigger for other mental health problems like depression, stress, and anxiety.

### Key figures:

- An estimated **56 %** of the population has no access to primary health care services.<sup>2</sup>
- A mere **34 %** of households have access to a safe and improved water source less than 30 minutes distance from their home.
- Only **19 %** of households use improved sanitation facilities, including shared facilities.
- A little as **20 %** of at-risk women and girls have access to gender-based violence service.

*“The global COVID-19 pandemic is affecting countries around the world and is now spreading rapidly in South Sudan. The COVID-19 crisis in South Sudan is more than a national health emergency. It will have a significant negative impact on the humanitarian situation and any socio-economic and political progress the country has made over the past couple years.”* Alain Noudéhou Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan

<sup>1</sup> South Sudan already has one of the highest under-five mortality rates (96 deaths per 1,000 live births) and maternal mortality rates (789 deaths per 100,000 live births) worldwide.

<sup>2</sup> [Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, South Sudan.](#)

## Our Response:

### Activities, Beneficiaries, Outcomes

Responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in South Sudan, Medair's Emergency Response Team provides health and water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) services with integrated elements of protection to vulnerable communities in the capital Juba. Medair prioritises support to health facilities in Juba and their catchment areas and remote case management for COVID-19 patients and their households in isolation.



#### 10 Health facilities support



- 14,000 outpatient consultations for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- 50 health workers trained on essential health topics, protection mainstreaming, gender-based violence, psychological first aid and related COVID-19 adaptations.
- 10 health facilities equipped to treat survivors of gender-based violence.

#### Improved access to clean sanitation facilities in health facilities



- 14,000 people provided with functional handwashing facilities with clean water and soap or 0.05% chlorine solution
- 500 vulnerable people provided with access to dignified, safe, and clean sanitation.

#### Kit distributions for households with vulnerable family members<sup>3</sup>



- 1,000 households receiving non-food-items for quarantine or isolation.

#### Prevention and training activities



Increasing community awareness of COVID-19 preventive measures through Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- 80,000 people received COVID-19 related risk communication messaging.
- 320 community health and hygiene promoters identified and trained.

#### Access to safe water and personal hygiene, including handwashing



- 39,000 people provided with access to safe drinking water, including handwashing
- 3,000 vulnerable women/girls of menstrual age in schools and/or community equipped with menstrual hygiene management kits

#### Remote support and Covid-19 case management



- 16,200 suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients receive remote support.
- 30 staff trained on remote medical support, health and hygiene promotion, protection mainstreaming and psychosocial support.
- >80% of beneficiaries report a positive response on satisfaction with accessing Medair's services.



<sup>3</sup> This includes persons >60 year of age and/or persons with additional illnesses.



## How You can make a difference



**CHF 70.-**

**1 household receive an emergency NFI kit**



**CHF 200.-**

**1 infrared thermometer**



**CHF 250.-**

**1 pedal operated handwashing facility in a crowded area**

**Thank you for joining Medair in serving vulnerable people in South Sudan.**

Your donations will go to the project as a whole and will be used where needed. The three gift handles above are given as an example of our project needs. They include both direct and indirect costs.

Your donations are tax deductible.

Founded in 1989, Medair is a Swiss humanitarian organisation specialising in emergency response and reconstruction. Medair targets particularly vulnerable and isolated communities, helping them to survive crises and recover with dignity. Medair is ZEWÖ-certified and a Swiss Solidarity partner.

### **Our Bank Details**

IBAN (CHF): CH94 0029 0290 4010 9040 C

IBAN (USD): CH65 0029 0290 4010 9079 T

Bank: UBS, Place Pury 4, 2000 Neuchâtel

Gift Reference: "South Sudan"

